

would USAID ignore these natural deadlines when Americans attempting to make a difference in agriculture in the field face approval delays past planting dates? Or contract termination dates set earlier than harvest dates? It appears as if even the meager projects addressing rural reform are purposefully set to fail because natural deadlines are ignored.

Let me focus on the amendment relating to Ukraine. It basically is a limitation amendment—limiting assistance to Ukraine, reducing it by an amount equal to the amount of any claim outstanding on the date of the enactment of this Act—whether that be a U.S. business enterprise, a U.S. private and voluntary organization against the government of Ukraine or any Ukrainian business enterprise.

It is offered as a way of getting the attention of the government of Ukraine to the serious outstanding issues that block full cooperation between us, not just in agriculture but as partners in a market economy.

It is my intention to withdraw this amendment this year, in hopes that final resolution can be reached on such matters as Land O'Lakes and Pioneer Seed. But, I reserve my rights to attach this amendment to subsequent legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) seek to control the time in opposition?

Mr. GILMAN. Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman continue to reserve his point of order?

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, is it the intention of the gentlewoman from Ohio to withdraw her amendment?

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GILMAN. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. It is my intention, Mr. Chairman, to withdraw this amendment this year, in hopes that final resolution can be reached on such matters as Land O'Lakes and Pioneer Seed; but I reserve my rights to attach this amendment to subsequent legislation, including perhaps legislation emanating from the gentleman's commitment at the appropriate point.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for bringing up this subject. I think what has happened in the latter decade of the 20th century, with respect to our assistance programs, internationally and American, to the former Soviet Union, certainly including Russia and the Ukraine, has really been a tremendous blow.

It has, I think, been counterproductive for causing them to move to a market-oriented economy. It has been counterproductive for democracy. In fact, it has contributed further to the corruption that has pervaded so many of the former Republics of the

Soviet Union, including, unfortunately, Ukraine.

We have, as the gentleman knows, and I am sure the gentlewoman is involved directly, so many positive contexts with the people of Ukraine, but to see so much of our resources diverted. Recently, it was suggested by a reputable source, an independent source in this country, that as much as \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion in assistance, international, including American, is diverted each month to private bank accounts, at least exported from that country at a time when those countries really need to have capital, their own and to attract foreign capital.

We have this huge outflow through Cyprus and other points, and it is a robbery of the assets and the potential and the future for the Ukrainian people and for the Russian people and for some of the smaller republics of the former Soviet Union.

I think we really have to be more insistent; we need to be more careful in having auditing of exactly where these international funds have gone. It seems to me in the past we have had too many decisions made on supporting various leaders of the former Soviet Union, certainly in the case of Yeltsin, when, in fact, we should have been building institutions from the bottom up, and working with those governors and local officials where, in fact, we have something approaching honest government and accounting for the resources presented to them by the international community.

Mr. Chairman, the IMF resources have been misused. In fact, the leadership direction to the IMF has come unfortunately from this country and from this administration. So I regret greatly that we have lost this opportunity in so many of the taxpayers' funds and funds from the world's community have been diverted to improper means.

The gentlewoman raises questions about those Caterpillar tractors. I have heard the same story how they ended up in garages of the local officials there in a very corrupt process. American companies many times are left holding the bills, as well as our taxpayers. So I appreciate the gentlewoman bringing this up.

We need to have reform. We need to be more insistent to make sure that the funds we do provide are properly spent and accounted for; and I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding me the time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for the remarks. First of all, I want to commend the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for chairing the Ukrainian caucus, for keeping the Ukrainian problem before us in the Congress. I happen to have a large Ukrainian American constituency in my own area. I am very much concerned about the future of Ukraine and its democratic reforms. A great deal has to be

done, and we thank the gentlewoman for her making certain that the Congress addresses these issues.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GILMAN. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for taking time out of his busy schedule to be here on such a critical issue.

I wanted to thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs, for allowing us just this moment. If so many billions of dollars were not involved, I would not press to spend a few extra moments here this afternoon.

I wanted to thank the ranking member, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), for allowing us this time.

We have had absolutely no other opportunity to bring this to international attention than this moment. We think it is the right time, and we look forward to working with the authorizing and appropriations committees in the future to keep our assistance on a short lease and to recover assets that are due to our company and our people and to move our aid in the direction of reform in both of those very strategic nations.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, does the gentlewoman withdraw her amendment?

Ms. KAPTUR. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GILMAN. I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN), and I want to commend the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for her leadership.

We have had this issue for our committee over and over again, and I know that we are all behind the gentlewoman on this and thank her for her leadership.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The amendment is withdrawn.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, finally, we have arrived at the end of the bill, and in just a few seconds we are going to rise. I understand that there was a ceremony in the Rotunda and that has now ended and Members are now free to come back to the Chamber and we can now rise.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to tell the Members of the House that we have now a good bill, I know, in the minds of many. Especially in the minority it is